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Cc: Flynn, Mike[Flynn.Mike@epa.gov]
From: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer
Sent: Thur 11/16/2017 12:45:00 PM
Subject: Moving ORD Forward

Dear ORDers,

It is an understatement to say it has been an eventful year. Looking across the organization I cannot help but be amazed at the contributions ORD is making to environmental protection. And moving forward, I know we will continue to accomplish great things.

How? We will continue to do what we do best—quality science.

We will make sure that science is part of the conversation about how to best protect human health and the environment. We will continue to build trust and support both with our partners across the Agency and externally. So many times when decisions are made, the decision makers fail to realize that the key supporting science came from ORD. We must continue to increase the visibility of ORD's role in these decisions through our Lean Management mission metrics, our support for states and statutes, and getting our message out through strategic communications and relationship building. This goes hand with developing an updated strategy for ORD and the research programs—which will help us to manage our workforce in these times of change, and create clearer connections between our work and the priorities of this Administration.

Is this a lot? Yes. But I know that we can do it. I know because we are already doing it.

If you look at just a handful of our accomplishments from last year—they all have put us on road to meet the challenges I have laid out. We transformed the way ORD receives and manages its financial, human resources, and performance management data through new data analytics. We increased transparency through publicly available datasets that support our science. We increased the reach of our newsletter, Science Matters, sharing our work with nearly 60,000 people biweekly. We deepened our relationships with key partners across the Agency (and soon states) through the Regional/ORD Community of Science Networking (ROCS-Net) Program. And it all comes back to the science. We had a number of scientific achievements last year including:

- Publishing the Community Health-Vulnerability Index which provided those impacted by wildfires an important tool to identify how sensitive communities can minimize smoke exposure and decrease the health and economic burden imposed on the population by wildfire smoke.

- The *CompTox approach targeting thyroid disruption* to understand how chemicals we are exposed to everyday in the environment, our food or water, or by using consumer products, impact our health.
- The *IRIS assessment for ethylene oxide*, which addresses the carcinogenicity of ethylene oxide from chronic inhalation exposure and provides an estimate of cancer potency.
- EPA's *Materials Management Wizard (MWIZ)*, which provides access to tools and resources to communities looking to manage materials more productively over their lifecycles.
- And, our collaboration with Idaho National Laboratory on the *Water Security Test Bed* which allows us to use real contamination, to study fate and transport and applied approaches to cleanup, including the treatment of the contaminated water.

In Closing

ORD will continue to lead and inspire the next generation of scientists globally and locally. There is much to be done, and I am confident that our commitment to quality science and strong management will play a crucial and decisive role in the protection of human health and the environment. I look forward to working with you to keep our scientific voice and message strong and clear.

Thank you for all the work you do. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

jennifer

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